

CLAIMS: I claim:

1. A system for allowing predesignated users at remotely located computer-based systems to perform electronic contract negotiations; comprising:
 - a public data network;
 - a computer with an Internet Web Browser and the necessary operating system, display device, and data input devices that are ordinary for the Web Browser;
 - a computer software component for working in conjunction with the Internet Web Browser and for retrieving data from fingerprint scanning devices that are BioAPI Consortium compliant; and
 - a BioAPI Consortium compliant fingerprint-scanning device.
2. A system for allowing remotely located users with a system of claim 1 to register as a signatory authority for electronic contract negotiations using a scanned and digitized human fingerprint to sign an electronic contract, comprising:
 - a public data network;
 - a computer or cluster of computers with Web Server software and the necessary operating system, display devices, and local storage for communicating with the system of claim 1;
 - a registration component for registering users for access to electronic contracts;
 - a registration component for receiving binary fingerprint scan data from users with signatory authority for an electronic contract;
 - a computer software component for working in conjunction with the Web Server software and designed for processing and analyzing binary fingerprint scan data received from the system of claim 1;
 - a computer software component for retrieving binary fingerprint scan data from the system of claim 1;
 - a computer database comprised of binary fingerprint scan data from all registered users with signatory authority;
 - a computer software component for storing binary fingerprint scan data in a database for electronic signatures;
 - a computer software component for generating a graphical visual representation of binary fingerprint scan data; and
 - a computer software component for generating Web pages for presenting visual representations of binary fingerprint scan data on the system of claim 1.

3. A system for allowing remotely located users with a system of claim 1 to sign an electronic contract using a scanned and digitized human fingerprint, comprising:
 - a public data network;
 - a system of claim 2;
 - a fingerprint analysis component for extracting the necessary information of a set of binary fingerprint scan data to compare with other binary fingerprint scan data;
 - a fingerprint comparison component for scanning a database of binary fingerprint scan data for a match;
 - a computer database comprised of electronic contracts, addendums, attachments, and revised contracts;
 - a computer software component for storing binary fingerprint scan data as an electronic signature to an electronic contract;
 - a computer software component for generating Web pages for presenting electronic contract information on the system of claim 1;
 - a system administration component for administering and configuring the databases and users; and
 - an audio and visual component that allows users to collaborate remotely for electronic contract negotiations.